What we claim is:

1. A two-dimensional code extraction method comprising:

inputting image data;

scanning said input image data in a square block unit of MxN pixels (M and N are positive integers);

detecting blocks that satisfy specific conditions from said scanned blocks;

detecting a region comprising the neighboring and contiguous blocks among said detected blocks; and

extracting said detected region as the two-dimensional code region.

2. The two-dimensional code extraction method according to claim 1, wherein a block that includes a ratio of white pixels and black pixels that falls within a specific range is detected as a block satisfying said specific conditions.

3. The two-dimensional code extraction method according to claim 1, wherein a block that includes a ratio between transition points of pixels within the horizontal lines and/or vertical lines of the block and the total number of pixels of the block that falls within a specific range is detected as a block satisfying said specific conditions.

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4. The two-dimensional code extraction method according to claim 1, wherein a block in which a vertical and/or horizontal projection of the black pixels included in each of the lines in the blocks fall within a specific range is detected a block satisfying said specific conditions.

5. The two-dimensional code extraction method according to claim 1, further comprising:

detecting a region including specific numbers of blocks from said detected region comprising the neighboring and contiguous blocks; and

determining said detected region as a two-dimensional code region.

6. The two-dimensional code extraction method according to claim 1, further comprising:

scanning said detected two-dimensional code region from a point within said two-dimensional code region block by block having a predetermined size upward, downward, to the right and to the left of said point;

detecting a position such that a number of black pixels within said scanned block is less that a predetermined value; and

extracting a square area including said detected position as a two-dimensional code region.

7. A two-dimensional code extraction method according to claim 1, further comprising:

calculating average distance between pairs of black pixels within said scanned blocks; and

extracting said scanned block as a two-dimensional code when it is determined that said calculated average distance exceeds a predetermined value.

8. The two-dimensional code extraction method according to claim 1, further comprising:

determining an angle of inclination of the two-dimensional code; and

correcting for the angle of inclination if the angle of inclination exceeds a specific value.

9. The two-dimensional code extraction method according to claim 1, further comprising:

detecting the two-dimensional code from a maximum number of detected contiguous blocks.

10. A computer-readable medium storing a program which, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to execute a two-dimensional code extraction method comprising:

inputting image data;

scanning said input image data in a square block unit of MxN pixels (M and N are positive integers);

detecting blocks that satisfy specific conditions from said scanned blocks;

detecting a region comprising the neighboring and contiguous blocks among said detected blocks; and

extracting said detected region as the two-dimensional code region.

11. The computer-readable medium according to claim 10, wherein a block that includes a ratio of white pixels and black pixels that falls within a specific range is detected as a block satisfying said specific conditions.

12. The computer-readable medium according to claim 10, wherein a block that includes a ratio between transition points of pixels within the horizontal lines and/or vertical lines of the block and the total number of pixels of the block that falls within a specific range is detected as a block satisfying said specific conditions.

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13. The computer-readable medium according to claim 10, wherein a block in which a vertical and/or horizontal projection of the black pixels included in each of the lines in the blocks fall within a specific range is detected a block satisfying said specific conditions.

14. The computer-readable medium according to claim 10, further comprising:

detecting a region including specific numbers of blocks from said detected region comprising the neighboring and contiguous blocks; and

determining said detected region as a two-dimensional code region.

15. The computer-readable medium according to claim 10, further comprising:

scanning said detected two-dimensional code region from a point within said two-dimensional code region block by block having a predetermined size upward, downward, to the right and to the left of said point;

detecting a position such that a number of black pixels within said scanned block is less that a predetermined value; and

extracting a square area including said detected position as a two-dimensional code region.

16. The computer-readable medium according to claim 10, further comprising:

calculating average distance between pairs of black pixels within said scanned blocks; and

extracting said scanned block as a two-dimensional code when it is determined that said calculated average distance exceeds a predetermined value.

17. The computer-readable medium according to claim 10, further comprising:

determining an angle of inclination of the two-dimensional code; and

correcting for the angle of inclination if the angle of inclination exceeds a specific value.

18. The computer-readable medium according to claim 10, further comprising:

detecting the two-dimensional code from a maximum number of detected contiguous blocks.

19. An apparatus for extracting two-dimensional code from a input document, comprising:

an image scanning unit for scanning the document, and outputting input image data;

a processing unit, connected to said image scanning unit, for processing two-dimensional code extraction process, by scanning said input image data in a square block unit of MxN pixels (M and N are positive integers), detecting blocks that satisfy specific conditions from said scanned blocks, detecting a region comprising the neighboring and contiguous blocks among said detected blocks, and extracting said detected region.

20. The apparatus for extracting two-dimensional code according to claim 19, further comprising means for reading information from a computer-readable medium contains computer software for said two-dimensional code extraction process.